

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to remove the terminology which the Examiner considers to have made Claims 1 and 10 and dependent Claims 2-8 rejectable under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Additionally, Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended to define the thickness of the at least one dielectric more clearly in accordance with that shown in the embodiments on page 6, line 33- page 7, line 19 of the specification, both of which embodiments have dielectric layers of thickness of less than a micron.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Malone et al. is considered to lack merit.

The Malone et al. patent is not considered to teach, or even suggest, the ceramic passive component defined by even Claim 1, the most generic claim.

Unlike the passive ceramic component defined by Claim 1, the ceramic passive component of the Malone et al. patent, the capacitor array shown therein, does not have at least one thin film ferroelectric dielectric.

As shown in column 7, line 48-column 8, line 62, Figs. 5 and 6 of the Malone et al. patent it is shown that a co-firing step is carried out in the method employed therein for producing the

ceramic components shown therein, a step that produces thick rather than thin layer dielectrics.

The rejection of Claims 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Malone et al. is considered to lack merit.

The Malone et al. patent is not considered to teach, or even suggest, the ceramic passive components defined by Claims 4, 6 and 7 for reasons given in regard to parent Claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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On April 29, 1st 2002

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Appendix

1. (~~Thrice~~Twice Amended) A ceramic passive component which comprises a carrier substrate (1), at least one first electrode (2) formed of a material selected from the group consisting of ~~metal~~ metals and alloys ~~and alloys~~ and having a first surface disposed, on the substrate, at least one thin film dielectric (5) having a first surface disposed, on a second surface of the at least one first electrode opposing said first surface of the at least one first electrode, and at least one second electrode (6) disposed on a second surface of the at least one dielectric opposing said first surface of the at least one dielectric, wherein the at least one thin film dielectric (5) comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material with a voltage-dependent relative dielectric constant ϵ_r .

10. (~~Thrice~~Twice Amended) A filter with as its capacitive component a ceramic passive component which comprises a carrier

substrate (1), at least one first electrode (2) formed of a material selected from the group consisting of metals and alloys and having a first surface disposed on the substrate, at least one thin film dielectric (5) having a first surface disposed on a second surface of the at least one first electrode opposed to said first surface and at least one second electrode (6) having a surface disposed on said second surface of the at least one thin film dielectric wherein the at least one thin film dielectric (5) comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material with a voltage-dependent relative dielectric constant ϵ_r .